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POLAND EVOLVING BROAD SIX-YEAR PLAN

In its present stage, the Six-Year Plan sets up ambitious tasks for the development of all economic sectors. It will mobilize the working masses to exceed the 1950 economic plan and the successive yearly plans. The long-range national plan is a collection of standards binding the government in establishing guiding principles for the yearly plans.

The tasks of the Six-Year Plan are classified according to the branches of economy and not according to the administrative criteria characteristic of plans in which the executor is designated. The project, therefore, will be divided as follows: industry and handicrafts, agriculture and forestry, construction, transportation and communications, commodity flow (including supplies to industry and foreign trade), cultural and social establishments, and local and housing economy.

The economic soundness of the plan will be verified by detailed elaboration of certain features to test the internal consistency of the plan and to determine whether or not the goals are feasible on the basis of available material, labor, and financial means. These will be: estimated balance of materials, estimated imports and exports, employment and balance of manpower, investments, capital repairs, the general financial plan, gross national product, and national income.

Two fundamental problems must be worked out in detail: (1) guiding principles defining the economic and political bases of the plan; (2) directives formally naming the authorities responsible for executing the project and defining the manner of executing the plan.

The basic principles, known as government principles, have already been executed in detail and approved by the Council of Ministers. On 29 April 1949, the chief of the PKPG (Panstwowa Komisja Planowania Gospodarczego, State Economic Planning Committee) issued directives for the execution of the Six-Year Plan. Thus, the concrete task of transforming the project into a national economic plan has been placed before the planning offices in Poland.

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The Six-Year Plan will be worked out centrally, not on the basis of data from the lower planning offices such as industrial establishments, state farms, etc. Projects of the plan will be drawn up on the basis of data of ministries, central authorities, and agencies directly subject to them. These agencies will be called planning units.

For industry the planning units will be the Central Administrations; for agriculture, the Regional Offices of State Farms and Divisions of Agriculture of Wojewodztwo Offices; for commodity turnover, the Central Trade Bureaus.

The reason for assigning the working out of the plan to central units was to enable the planning offices to outline the plan in perspective, which is not possible in the lower organizational divisions.

However, decentralized planning was approved for certain spheres of the economy, such as residential construction, small-scale industry, farm economy, local economy and housing. To assist in working out these problems, local offices and the Economic Planning Offices of the wojewodztwo were included in the planning units.

The PKPG will work out the outline of the Six-Year Plan by 1 October. This comparatively early date is necessary in order to synchronize it with the drawing up of the yearly plan for 1950 which will be approved by the end of December. Obviously the yearly plan for 1950 must be based on the outline set forth in the Six-Year Plan.

The Six-Year Plan will be worked out according to forms prepared by the PKPG in all spheres requiring individual planning methods.

One duty of the PKPG will be to coordinate drawing up of the plans. Inquiries from the central planning units will be referred to the checking and adjusting divisions.

Coordination of the over-all plan will be assured by staggering time limits for the collection of essential data from various sections. While the time limit for submitting data to PKPG expires 1 October, industrial production figures and lists of the more important enterprises will be submitted (as preliminary data) 1 August. Requirements for materials and skilled labor, and investment plans will be submitted 1 September. Thus it will be possible in the process of working out the plan to arrive at more exact estimates of the scheduled flow of materials and the volume of foreign trade, to work out regional plans for a network of trade schools, plan construction projects, etc. On the basis of this data, the PKPG will issue adequate explanations and directions in the course of executing the plan.

The planning units will include the lower organizational divisions in the work of developing the plan by organizing and directing production meetings of skilled workers and technicians to discuss the schemes under consideration.

After the plan has been approved, in the period to the end of 1950, each of the planning units and its agencies, including each individual enterprise, will draw up its own Six-Year Plan of development. This will give each establishment the proper perspective for yearly planning and will mobilize and unite the working masses in the struggle to achieve the Six-Year Plan. --
Tadeusz Pajewski

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